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preliminary list*

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH
WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Letter dated 13 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Santiago Consensus, which was adopted by the Governments of the Latin American and Caribbean countries at the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 November 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 106 and 107 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Juan LARRAÍN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Santiago Consensus, adopted by the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Santiago from 19 to 21 November 1997

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh session,

Recalling that at its sixth session, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September 1994, the Regional Conference identified the obstacles to the improvement of women's living conditions and position in society and formulated the proposals contained in the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, adopted at that session,[1]

Taking into account that, in the light of the international priorities identified by the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations on the basis of the Platform for Action,[2] and the regional priorities emanating from the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, the Presiding Officers elected at the sixth session of the Regional Conference —in consultation with member countries— established the goal for the seventh session of identifying more precisely the obstacles to the effective practice by women of their citizenship, particularly with respect to access to power and participation in decision-making, as well as those stemming from poverty, with a view to proposing measures to overcome them more rapidly,

1. Welcomes the documents prepared by the secretariat for the seventh session of the Regional Conference, acknowledging that they reflect the requirements expressed by the Governments with respect to the topics addressed therein;[3]

2. Notes with satisfaction that during the 1990s, the issue of gender has received growing attention in other intergovernmental forums, among others United Nations world conferences and the following regional meetings:

a) The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication (28 October-1 November 1996), which adopted the Directional Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication in the Caribbean;

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[1] The Regional Programme of Action for Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, which was approved by the Governments at the sixth session of the Regional Conference, updates the Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in Havana in 1977 at the first session of the Regional Conference.

[2] These priorities are listed in the report of the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 1995.

[3] Especially with reference to the analysis and proposals contained in the documents entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1063(CRM.7/4)) and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1064 (CRM.7/5)).

b) The First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (São Paulo, 6-9 April 1997), which adopted the Consensus of São Paulo;[4]

c) The CARICOM/ECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference (Georgetown, 6-8 August 1997), which adopted the Georgetown Consensus;

3. Reaffirms the agreements and commitments made at those meetings and at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995);

4. Notes with satisfaction that in the period since the Fourth World Conference on Women there has been a strong move towards the inclusion of the issue of gender on governmental agendas and in State machinery, including the establishing and strengthening of national machineries for women's development in the region, and that various countries have adopted plans to promote equal opportunities for women in which, *inter alia*, measures are proposed for eradicating poverty and increasing women's participation in decision-making processes and their access to power;

5. Notes with interest the continuing work of women parliamentarians, politicians and ministers, who have been promoting the issue of gender at decision-making levels, as well as strengthening the coordination of women's non-governmental organizations at the regional, subregional and national levels;

6. Emphasizes the importance of the elements of the diagnostic analysis contained in the reports of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000";

7. Proposes, three years after the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,[5] which served as the regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women:

a) To accelerate the process of implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action, the Regional Programme of Action and the CARICOM Plan of Action, by incorporating into national development strategies solutions to the problem of the inequality of women through public policies and programmes at the national level to train skilled human resources, productive employment programmes, changes in school curricula, amendments to existing legislation and the inclusion of the gender perspective in all programmes;

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[4] For the full text of the Consensus of São Paulo, see ECLAC, Report of the First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (LC/G.1972(CONF.86/4)), Santiago, Chile, 1997.

[5] The sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by ECLAC in pursuance of its resolution 509(XXIII), was held in Mar del Plata in September 1994.

b) To apply to development an integrated approach linking social and economic policies in order to achieve equity, bearing in mind that, if development is to be sustainable, the gender perspective must be explicitly brought into these policies, since all plans, programmes and policies inevitably embody a certain viewpoint on gender and determine on that basis what roles individuals should play in society; to ensure that plans and programmes fully incorporate an appropriate gender perspective in their policies and decisions ("mainstreaming") and provide for the equitable distribution of resources in society;

c) To ensure, in the course of the modernization of the government apparatus and public-sector reform which is under way in virtually all the countries of the region, that priority is given by the State to the social development agenda;

d) To strengthen national mechanisms or government offices for the promotion of women in the technical, budgetary and politico-administrative spheres, in order to enable them effectively to exercise their functions of managing and monitoring public policies to foster gender equity, which is the responsibility of all State entities;

e) To allocate in the national budget the necessary resources for the implementation of actions towards women's advancement, especially those oriented to eradicating poverty among women and providing women with greater access to decision-making positions;

f) To incorporate the development of gender indicators by gathering all statistical information disaggregated by sex, especially in national censuses, economic and household surveys and other statistical registers; to create a data bank of gender indicators that can be periodically updated;

g) To stress the need for a participatory, coherent and coordinated approach among all partners in development in the implementation of national poverty eradication plans or programmes that fully take into account the gender perspective;

h) To introduce a gender perspective in environmental planning in order to ensure the inclusion of women in decision-making and in the evaluation of the impact of natural disasters, in keeping with the important contribution of women to economic and social development and environmental protection, which are mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

i) To design and implement policies to encourage women's participation at the national, federal and local level; to incorporate the gender perspective in local government agendas and policies, especially those concerning training; and to use networks of women's organizations to strengthen their activities and establish alliances with other institutions;

j) To incorporate gender analysis into studies of migratory movements, since the figures reveal an increasingly significant involvement of women in the phenomenon; to incorporate analysis of such aspects as the special features of migration deriving from women's involvement, the impact it has on children, the disadvantages women face in comparison with men in the receiving cities, and the fact that in many communities male migration leaves women to cope with the problems of family subsistence and management of the household's resources; to identify and analyse not only international migration, but also emerging phenomena such as movements of temporary workers and migrants and migration within and between cities, which have increased considerably over the past few decades;

k) To promote respect for the human rights of women who are refugees, migrants, internally displaced or otherwise uprooted and face problems of security due to the situation in which they live and their gender, as well as women who are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation;

l) To encourage the countries to pass and review legislation concerning the situation of refugees and displaced persons so that it incorporates the gender perspective and explicitly recognizes gender-based persecution as one of the grounds on which a person may be considered a refugee;

m) To urge that all persons, especially women and girls and among them especially those who live in rural areas, are members of indigenous groups, or are uprooted, have the proper legal documentation, so that they are guaranteed the exercise of their rights;

n) To promote the recognition that power-sharing in all spheres, from private to public is the key objective towards which all actions should converge, since it is an essential requirement of democracy, and to promote the reinforcement of women's role as citizens, understood as their active participation in society via access to all decision-making levels;[6]

o) To give stronger consideration to affirmative, positive action, including such mechanisms as establishing a minimum percentage of representation for both sexes, in order to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in political representation, boards, commissions and other public appointments, and in the granting of national honours and awards, bearing in mind that some Governments within the region have already agreed to this;

p) To promote the establishment and support the strengthening and work of women's organizations and networks in order to help reinforce their capacity to influence public and political affairs in the countries;

q) To undertake to develop and institutionalize systems for structuring and compiling sex-disaggregated information on political participation, focusing on the differential access of women and men to political decision-making positions in organized civil society; to disseminate such information widely on a regular basis;

r) To design and develop, as part of the plans, programmes and public policies geared to ensuring the effective exercise of women's political rights, training strategies for men, with a view to arousing in them a sensitivity to women's political rights, and for women, with a view to helping to strengthen their capacity for leadership and for influencing public and political affairs; such training should have a strategic orientation and a sense of process, so that it does not translate into limited, isolated or uncoordinated activities;

s) To develop special plans for young women aimed at strengthening their capacity for and interest in leadership and influencing their choice of profession;

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[6] As has been recognized by the countries in various international instruments, most notably the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001.

t) To facilitate the exercise by women of their right to equal access to ownership and control of property, especially in rural areas;

u) To encourage shared responsibility for roles within the family so that they are more compatible with the actual activities of its members, promoting public policies to that end and the enactment of new legislation which contributes to an equitable distribution of duties and rights within the family; to design and implement, especially at the local level, programmes to support the family in performing new and complex functions, ensuring that they emphasize the aspects of solidarity and non-discrimination; and to establish child-care centres in neighbourhoods, business firms and government agencies;

v) To ensure maternity leave and promote the extension of leave to the fathers, in order to encourage both parents to share the responsibility for the care of their children, and to eliminate barriers to the hiring of women;

w) To promote programmes to enhance women's access to the labour market and to employment which take into consideration their control over resources; to implement political and legal reforms to prevent gender discrimination and set up mechanisms to help put an end to the division of labour between men and women and the segmentation of employment;

x) To establish mechanisms to encourage companies to hire and train women; to work to ensure that programmes of both the public and private sectors provide funding for training purposes which also benefit women;

y) To establish national mechanisms which permit the monitoring of compliance with international and national labour standards;

z) To create mechanisms for ensuring maximum dissemination of information on jobs, wages and legal norms; to give wide publicity to laws that guarantee the rights of citizens, both male and female, and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and to conduct campaigns to promote the image of women as subjects who have rights, capable of creating new frames of reference for themselves;

aa) To analyse the design and implementation of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies and their impact on women's quality of life, with the participation of the Governments, ECLAC, the multilateral financial institutions and the organized women's movement, with the aim of taking appropriate measures to correct any negative effects of such policies;

bb) To urge regional and international organizations to provide financial and technical cooperation to conduct research and undertake other initiatives on women and poverty, paying particular attention to, inter alia, women's unpaid and low-paid work;

cc) To develop gender-sensitive teaching materials, classroom methods and curricula and gender-training programmes for teachers in order to break down gender stereotypes and offer non-discriminatory education and training aimed at the physical and intellectual development of girls and boys, recognizing that teacher training is an essential component of gender-sensitive programmes for eliminating the differential behavioural expectations of girls and boys that reinforce the division of labour by gender; to promote research into methods for improving teachers' capacity to impart gender-sensitive instruction and

to disseminate such methods widely in order to support the development of multicultural, gender-sensitive curricula in all areas of instruction;

dd) To support the establishment of education research centres, or strengthen those already existing, which would take responsibility for disseminating research findings within the region, thereby avoiding duplication and waste and maximizing scarce resources;

ee) To design and implement policies geared to raising women's earning potential (wage policies, job training and retraining, and support for microenterprises), ensuring adequate employment conditions in order to improve the situation of poor households;

ff) To carry out regular training programmes on gender awareness and planning for civil servants at both national and local government levels, in order to help them to analyse the different effects sectoral policies and programmes have on men and women and to ensure equality of opportunity;

gg) To accelerate action in promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres through the implementation of:

i) Gender analysis and planning;
ii) Gender management systems;
iii) Gender impact assessments;

hh) To formulate and implement pilot programmes on the national level that apply the gender dimension to the planning process; a suggested theme is poverty eradication, which requires a multisectoral approach, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness and operativity of this type of planning;

ii) To emphasize the prevention of violence against women and children and the prosecution of offenders and urge the enactment of legislation where it does not already exist; to promote legal aid for poorer women to ensure their access to such legislation where it does exist, and the provision of counselling services for the victim and rehabilitation for the perpetrator of violence against women; to develop appropriate training, advocacy and awareness programmes for judicial, legal, medical, social, educational, media and police personnel to sensitize them to the nature of gender-based acts and threats of violence, to ensure fair treatment of female victims and compliance with legislation on violence against women and children;

jj) To conduct studies and adopt measures to enforce the implementation of international agreements related to women, within institutional frameworks;

kk) To support the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its monitoring of the related Convention;

ll) To contribute to the process of elaborating and revising the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

mm) To support and foster the active participation of citizens, particularly women, in ensuring the accountability of State commitments regarding development;

nn) To promote affirmative actions and programmes in order to eliminate inequality based on age, ethnicity or race, as well as socio-economic status, and to facilitate the access to development of those groups which have been discriminated against and marginalized;

oo) To continue making efforts to allocate and distribute new and additional resources from all available funding sources for development;

pp) To formulate and improve programmes aimed at protecting the health and sexual and reproductive rights of women, in accordance with the provisions adopted at the Cairo and Beijing Conferences;

qq) To develop and strengthen comprehensive preventive and health care programmes, designed specifically for women, that are accessible and cover both rural and urban areas and provide sufficient high-quality care, paying particular attention to the most common problems that limit their activity and shorten their lives, such as iron deficiency anaemia, malnutrition and frequent psychological and mental problems, often overlooked;

rr) To promote information, education and appropriate preventive and support services on sexual and reproductive health for adolescents, recognizing that pregnancy in adolescence has social and economic effects;

ss) To endorse the proposals which place emphasis on education in the exercise of full citizenship and urge the Governments to guarantee, through their women's offices and in collaboration with organizations in society, the operation of leadership training programmes for women holding public office; such programmes should permit the development of self-esteem and technical and political capabilities by women policy-makers from a gender perspective;

tt) To increase the coverage and quality of education and eliminate existing barriers preventing girls and adolescent women from enjoying this right, fundamental for the full exercise of citizenship; to expand the coverage of adult literacy programmes for women;

uu) To effectively address issues of women's poverty, as well as women's absence from positions of decision-making, which requires a parallel concern for issues of masculinity and traditional male attitudes and behaviour and their impact on areas of sexuality and relations of power and domination of women, recognizing that this is a growing concern in many countries of the region which needs to be examined with a view to promoting more positive male attitudes and behaviour in the private and public spheres;

vv) To promote the conduct of research on women and governance and gender socialization with a view to arriving at strategies to improve women's involvement in power and decision-making at all levels; and

ww) To promote access by women to modern communication media and state-of-the art technology through ongoing training.

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